

## How will Projects be Selected?

Applications will be reviewed by the LIP Technical Committee staff for the overall benefit to rare species and their habitats. Those that meet the criteria developed specifically for LIP will be ranked based on the project's potential benefit to target species or habitat.

Funding decisions will be made based on the ranking score of the proposal and final review and recommendations of the LIP Advisory Committee.



*Background: Upland Sandpiper, Cover: Bobolink*

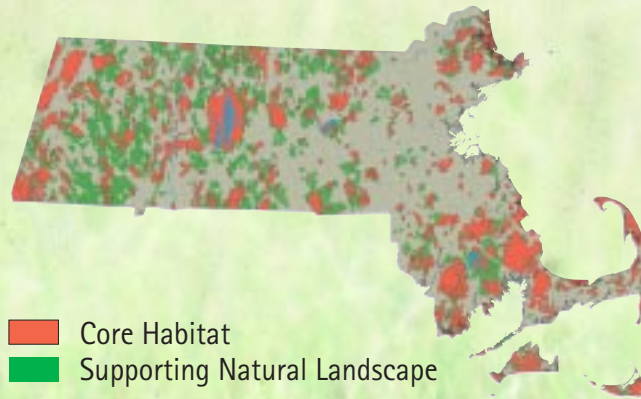


**Northern Redbelly Cooter**



**Ruffed Grouse**

*Photos by Bill Byrne*



- Core Habitat
- Supporting Natural Landscape

To determine if your property is in the BioMap Core Habitat or Supporting Natural Landscape, please visit the NHESP Interactive BioMap at:

[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhespnhbiointer.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhespnhbiointer.htm)

## Workshops

Landowner Incentive Program Workshops will be held across the state annually to inform private landowners and Non-profit Organizations of the goals and purpose of the program and the criteria for which contracts will be accepted. Dates and Locations will be posted on the LIP Website ([http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw\\_lip.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw_lip.htm)). LIP representative will be available to answer questions.

**Questions?** Email or call the LIP Coordinator.

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**MassWildlife**

# Landowner Incentive Program





# MassWildlife Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

## Become a partner working to conserve Massachusetts' biodiversity

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (*MassWildlife*) is extending an invitation to landowners of the Commonwealth to get involved with conserving the state's biodiversity. With the help of a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, *MassWildlife* is offering to partner with private landowners to manage their lands for the benefit of wildlife. This new program will provide recommendations as well as financial support up to 75% of the costs associated with managing the property. The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) will provide individuals or groups with the tools they need to ensure a wildlife legacy for future generations.

Privately owned lands provide important fish and wildlife habitat in Massachusetts. Over 80% of the landbase in the Commonwealth is privately owned. Many rare species in Massachusetts are found on privately owned lands. Restoring and maintaining habitat on these lands is essential because so many species depend upon them for survival. Species conservation goals cannot be fully achieved by focusing effort solely on public lands.

In the Commonwealth, many plants, animals and habitat types are in serious decline. Since much of the land in our state is privately owned it is important to protect our natural resources through partnerships with willing landowners.



Photo by Bill Byrne

*MassWildlife* works to protect priority habitats of rare wildlife such as the New England cottontail, Plymouth Red-belly cooter, Bog turtle, Blue-spotted salamander, Grassland birds and other animals that have seen a decline in their habitat over the years.

To address the conservation of fish and wildlife on private lands, congress allocated funds for a nation-wide Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). These funds were placed under the command of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support State fish and wildlife agencies.

The *MassWildlife* Landowner Incentive Program is a partnership that provides private landowners interested in developing and maintaining wildlife habitat on their property with financial and technical assistance. State biologists are currently working with private landowners to enhance and protect important habitats across the Commonwealth.

To promote the creation/restoration of high quality wildlife habitat that supports wildlife populations in Massachusetts, funding will be awarded for on-the-ground activities that enhance, protect and restore wildlife habitat.

### The *MassWildlife* Landowner Incentive Programs goals are:

1. Identify and reclaim appropriate sites for management of declining habitats.
2. Manage and control exotic and invasive plants.
3. Enhance wildlife habitat for species-at-risk. A species-at-risk is defined for LIP as any native fish or wildlife species that is federally or state listed as threatened or endangered, is a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered, or is listed on the NHESP Official State Rare Species List ([www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhrarelink.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhrarelink.htm)).
4. Provide technical guidance and financial assistance to landowners on how to manage their property for wildlife.

### What Projects are Eligible for Funding?

Landowners eligible to receive funding include land that is *not* owned by the State of Massachusetts, local municipalities or the Federal Government. Private landowners, individually or as a group, can submit project

proposals for their property. Additionally, individuals or groups (e.g. land conservancies or trusts, watershed councils, community organizations, or conservation organizations) working with private landowners or on trust lands are also eligible. Funding is awarded on a cost-share basis where the state will fund up to 75% of the cost of the recommended management practices.

*MassWildlife* promotes cost-share projects that resourcefully and creatively seek to manage wildlife habitat that conserves natural communities and species-at-risk.

Projects should focus on:

**Habitat Improvement** (natural vegetation restoration, invasive control, wildlife habitat enhancement, etc.)

**Habitat Management** (sustainable forestry to benefit wildlife, prescribed burns, modified haying, etc.)

**Habitat Monitoring and Maintenance** (wildlife monitoring, habitat maintenance)

Our attention will be directed toward habitats ranked as NHESP priority natural communities ([www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhclass.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhclass.htm)) and areas with At-Risk-Species.

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[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhespnhbiointer.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhespnhbiointer.htm)

### How to Apply

Everyone is encouraged to apply. However, land with threatened or endangered species, land within the Core and Supporting landscape areas and lands adjacent to Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) or other protected areas will have higher priority than those that are not.

Annual application periods will be announced and publicized on the website and on Comm-Pass. Please review the official RFR on Comm-Pass before applying ([www.comm-pass.com](http://www.comm-pass.com)). All applications must use the LIP application forms. Completed applications should be sent to the address below and will be due on or prior to the announced deadline. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to reapply.